

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2008***

The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm. Selectmen present were: Michael Woodworth, Rosanne Gilbert, and Wes Moore. Others present were: Chief Reed, Assessor Rod Wood, Sue McKinnon, Dottie Dawson, Brian Knipstein, Michael Price, and John Hayden.

Chief Reed informed the Selectmen that he has given the Hazardous Mitigation Plan to the Rockingham Planning Commission for their final review.

At 6:40pm the meeting went into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II. The meeting re-opened to the public at 6:45pm.

Rod Wood had appointments with 60 property owners today (8 were no shows) and another 60 appointments tomorrow. There is a crew of 3 from Brett Purvis Associates working with the property owners. Everything is going along smoothly.

It is the hope of the Selectmen that taxes will not change, but the rate will not be set until the fall.

Wes asked about the land values and the fact that they seem extraordinarily high. Rod said that the values are based on recent sales and the cut off date they used was 4/01/08. There were 40 sales in Newfields in 2006-2007. Rod stated that one quarter of the Town is assessed every year for 4 years with changes in value made only if there are changes to the property such as a garage or a finished basement. The 5th year, the entire Town is reassessed. This year the commercial properties had a large increase in value.

The end of Halls Mill Road was discussed. Michael indicated that his research found that Halls Mill Road is a scenic road, a Class 5 road, and a portion is Class 6. In order to allow snowmobiles, atvs, etc. on the Class 6 portion, a Town Hearing would need to be held. The Class 6 designation could be discontinued, but the property would automatically go to the abutters.

The Selectmen decided to not to change designation on Halls Mill Road.

The oil bids submitted to the Town were opened and reviewed. The Selectmen tabled this.

Brian Knipstein advised that the slate was removed from the Town Hall parking lot and the Newfields sign was reinstalled.

Dottie Dawson spoke about the swales and culverts on Old Lee Road. She is concerned about flooding and the area being a mosquito breeding ground. Brian will have his crew clean out the swales and have the fire department hose out the culverts (even though the culverts are the responsibility of the property owners) on the Nelson Road side of Old Lee Road. The opposite side of Old Lee Road needs swale work also and Brian will do some brush cutting and then contact the NH DES for permission to clean up the swales. Nancy will have Sarah at Dragon Mosquito call him about trapping mosquitoes in that area.

Brian is comparing road salt prices and will purchase road salt with the Company that has the best pricing.

Wes researched who has the authority to appoint members to Town Boards. He found that the Selectmen are the only authority to appoint a temporary position, a full position, or an alternate position on any board. The Town Clerk cannot swear anyone into office without the Selectmen's approval.

John Hayden is still interested in serving on the Planning Board. It was suggested that the Planning Board go to a seven member board instead of a five member board.

Sue McKinnon advised that the audit is coming along fine and they will be in touch with her again next week.

Sue is still working on getting the reconciliation done. The Selectmen and Sue agreed that it may be best not to work on the reconciliation until the audit is completed for 2007.

Checks were signed.

Correspondence from Comcast was reviewed.

Nancy Spencer advised that she was able to change the date of her class at Primex. This will allow the Town Office to remain open on November 19th.

A Lease Agreement was received from Light Tower Wireless and will be forwarded to the Town Counsel for review.

Nancy was asked to contact any Budget Advisory Committee members who have not responded to her notice about meeting with the Selectmen next week.

Rosanne made a motion to re-appoint Ray Buxton as the Newfields Fire Warden. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Rosanne made a motion to re-appoint Jeff Buxton as Deputy Fire Warden. Michael seconded the motion which passed with all in favor.

Rosanne made a motion to re-appoint Scott Buxton as Deputy Fire Warden. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Rosanne made a motion to re-appoint Thomas Conner as Deputy Fire Warden. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Rosanne made a motion to re-appoint Jeff Feenstra as Deputy Fire Warden. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Rosanne made a motion to re-appoint Brian Knipstein as Deputy Fire Warden. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

The re-appointment forms were signed for the above individuals and will be sent to the NH Division of Forests and Lands.

Correspondence from the Lane Law Offices was reviewed.

Nancy advised that the programmable thermostats have been installed in the Town Hall.

Michael made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 5th, 2008 meeting as written. Wes seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Yesterday a Voter Training Class was held and the following residents attended the class: Sue McKinnon, Don Doane, Maureen Smith, Lynne Sweet, Tom Morgan, Bill Davis, and Michael Woodworth.

Wes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer
Administrative Assistant